Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1.   (currently amended): A method for establishing a connection from a network-internal terminal of a packet-based communication network to a network-external connection destination, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting, via the terminal, logical address information that identifies the network-external connection destination to a central connection controller provided for controlling and managing network-internal connections;

determining, via the connection controller, a gateway device of the communication network as a connection destination based on the transmitted logical address information;

establishing a connection controlled by the connection controller between the terminal and the gateway device;

transmitting, via the terminal, the logical address information to the gateway device;

determining, via the gateway device, a network-externally valid transport address which is assigned to the transmitted logical address information;

addressing, via the gateway device, the network-externally valid connection destination in a relaying, packet-based communication network; and

relaying the connection over the relaying communication network to the external connection destination based on the network-externally valid transport address,

wherein the gateway device simulates to the connection controller that it is the destination and hides the relying of the connection from the connection controller.

Claim 2.   (original):   A method for establishing a connection from a network-internal terminal of a packet-based communication network to a network-external connection destination as claimed in claim 1 , the method further comprising the steps of:

transmitting to the terminal, via the connection controller, a network-internally valid transport address which is assigned to the transmitted logical address information and addresses the gateway device; and

initiating the connection to the gateway device, via the terminal, based on the network-internally valid transport address.

Claim 3.   (original):   A method for establishing a connection from a network-internal terminal of a packet-based communication network to a network-external connection destination as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

registering the gateway device as a network-internal connection destination with the connection controller under the logical address information that identifies the network-external connection destination.

Claim 4.   (original):   A method for establishing a connection from a network-internal terminal of a packet-based communication network to a network-external connection destination as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

transmitting the logical address information to the network-external connection destination over the relaying communication network.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6.   (currently amended): A   packet-based   communication   network, comprising:

a central connection controller for controlling and managing network-internal connections and for converting logical address information that identifies network-internal connection destinations into network-internally valid transport addresses for transporting data packets within the communication network; and

a gateway device that can be connected to a relaying communication network for converting logical address information that identifies network-external connection destinations

into network-externally valid transport addresses for transporting data packets over the relaying communication network; ,

wherein the gateway device is registered in the connection controller as a network-internal connection destination under logical address information that identifies a network-external connection destination, and the external connection destination in the gateway device is registered as a network-external connection destination under the logical address information, which simulates to the connection controller that the gateway device is the destination and hides the relying of the connection from the connection controller.

Claim 7.   (original):   A packet-based communication network as claimed in claim 6, wherein the central connection controller is a gatekeeper conforming to ITU-T Recommendation H.323.

Claim 8.   (original):   A packet-based communication network as claimed in claim 6, wherein the logical address information further comprises at least one of a prefix number, service number and a terminal directory number.

Claim 9.   (original):   A packet-based communication network as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of the network-internally valid transport address and the network-externally valid transport address are based on the Internet Protocol.

Claim 10.   (original):   A packet-based communication network as claimed in claim 6, wherein the gateway device further comprises an access control device for rejecting connection requests arriving from the relaying communication network whose respective origin is not registered as a network-external connection destination in the gateway device.

Claim 11.   (currently amended):   A gateway apparatus, comprising:

a first packet-switched interface ~~conforming~~ to a gatekeeper-controlled communication network, the first interface conforming to ITU-T Recommendation H.323 and being designed for operation in a gatekeeper-controlled H.323 mode; and

a second packet-switched interface to a further communication network, the second interface conforming to ITU-T Recommendation H.323 and being designed for simultaneous operation in a non-gatekeeper H.323 mode.